

CLAIMS

1. A method of investigating transactions in a data processing environment comprising a trusted computing environment, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 i. selecting a user within the trusted computing environment;
- ii. creating an investigation identity which is owned by the user;
- iii. using the investigation identity to take part in transactions; and
- iv. creating a record of those transactions.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the investigation identity is an
10 anonymous identity.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which transactions made using the investigation identity are kept in an authenticated record by a trusted party.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the record of transactions is made available to an investigator.

15 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the investigation identity is used by an investigator who takes part in the transactions.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the user can monitor the transactions made using the investigation identity.

20 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the user can inhibit the operation of the investigation identity.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the trusted computing environment includes a trusted party who maintains the identities of parties to a transaction such that the identity of each party can be authenticated by other parties whilst each party is anonymous to the other parties.

9. An apparatus for investigating transactions, said apparatus including a trusted computing device arranged such that an investigation identity is owned by a user, and a record of transactions made by the investigation identity is stored in an authenticated record by the trusted computing device.
- 5 10. A computer program product for causing a trusted computing device having a trusted computing environment to perform the following steps:
 - i. select a user within the trusted computing environment;
 - ii. create an investigation identity which is owned by the user;
 - iii. use the investigation identity to take part in transactions; and
 - 10 iv. create a record of those transactions.